

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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R 061229Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8748
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 05398

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, CG
SUBJ: ZAIRE AMBASSADOR TO IRAN RESIGNS, PROTESTS ZAIRE POLICY

REF: TEHRAN 5278

SUMMARY: ERSTWHILE ZAIREAN AMBASSADOR HAS DEPARTED FOR BRUSSELS, HAVING GIVEN US A COPY OF LETTER HE WROTE TO MOBUTU URGING MORE CONCILIATORY, POLITICAL APPROACH RATHER THAN FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN SHABA PROBLEM. HIS DIFFERENCES WITH ZAIRE GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY CAME TO THE FORE DURING ZAIREAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S BRIEF STOPOVER HERE LAST WEEKEND WITH MESSAGE TO THE SHAH FROM MOBUTU. END SUMMARY.

1. ZAIRE AMBASSADOR MBEKA MAKOSSO ANNOUNCED HIS RESIGNATION AS AMBASSADOR JUNE 4. HE TOLD PRESS IT WAS FOR "PERSONAL REASONS" BUT HAS MADE LITTLE SECRET THAT HE WROTE A LETTER TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU PROTESTING ZAIRE GOVERNMENT'S RECENT ACTION IN SHABA AND RECOMMENDING A MORE CONCILIATORY POLICY TOWARD
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KATANGAN REBELS. THIS BROUGHT INTO THE OPEN WHAT WAS IMPLICIT IN MBEKA'S CALL ON AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN AND BRITISH CHARGE (REFTEL). MBEKA WAS REPORTED TO HAVE FLOWN TO BRUSSELS JUNE 5, WHERE HE IS EXPECTED TO MAKE FURTHER STATEMENTS.

2. COPY OF LETTER (IN FRENCH) TO MOBUTU WAS GIVEN BY MBEKA TO AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN AND IS BEING POUCHED TO NEA/IRN FOR

APPROPRIATE DISTRIBUTION IN WASHINGTON. GIST OF MESSAGE IS TO PROTEST INVOLVEMENT OF FOREIGN TROOPS AND RESORT TO FORCE IN SHABA. MBEKA MAINTAINS THAT FRANCO/BELGIAN INTERVENTION PRODUCED A SHOCK WHICH WAS UNNECESSARY SINCE MORE FLEXIBILITY AND CALMNESS WOULD HAVE PREVENTED THE TERRIBLE MASSACRE AT KOLWEZI. HE WRITES THAT THE SHABA PROBLEM IS POLITICAL, AND IT IS A MISTAKE TO THINK OF KATANGAN REBELS IN SAME TERMS AS "MULELISTE" LEFT WING REBELS OF THE PAST. KATANGANS ARE BETTER ORGANIZED AND CAN TAKE REFUGE IN COUNTRY ACROSS THE BORDER (ANGOLA) WHICH PROVIDES THEM UNLIMITED SOURCE OF ARMS. UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO DEAL WITH THEM POLITICALLY SO AS TO PREVENT CONTINUING TROUBLES WHICH ARE BOUND TO RECUR. LUNDA TRIBE AS A WHOLE MUST BE BROUGHT TO TERMS WITH CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE LEST FOREIGN CADRES WHO WORK IN SHABA CONTINUE THEIR FLIGHT, WITH THE ECONOMIC DETERIORATION THAT WILL BRING.

3. LETTER IS WRITTEN DIPLOMATICALLY AND IN VERY GOOD FRENCH. IT IS CLEAR THAT AMBASSADOR HAS DEDICATED HIMSELF TO A TASK WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT TO HIM THAN HIS AMBASSADORIAL POSITION. EVEN THOUGH HE HAS TOLD PRESS THAT HE DOES NOT INTEND TO SEEK POLITICAL OFFICE IN ZAIRE AT THE PRESENT TIME, IT SEEMS OBVIOUS HE IS SEEKING TO INFLUENCE FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS TO PUT PRESSURE ON MOBUTU FOR A MORE CONCILIATORY APPROACH.

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4. TEHRAN NEWSPAPERS GAVE SOME BIOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND ON MBEKA. HE HAS REPORTEDLY SERVED AS ZAIRE AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON, PARIS AND BONN, AND AS MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND FINANCE. WE ASSUME IT WAS IN HIS LATTER CAPACITY THAT HE VISITED WASHINGTON ON A MISSION IN 1975(REFTEL).

5. COMMENT: WE HOPE TO GET A READING ON GOI'S CURRENT APPRECIATION OF SITUATION IN ZAIRE OVER NEXT FEW DAYS.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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